

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 – 60 have been examined. Claims 1, 2, 24, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,304,487 (“Wilding”); Claims 1, 2, 7, 16, 18, 19, and 21 – 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,391,622 (“Knapp”); Claims 3 – 6, 9 – 15, 26 – 31, and 33 – 60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Knapp in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,408,878 (“Unger”); Claims 17 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Knapp; and Claims 8 and 32 have been identified as allowable except for their dependence from rejected base claims.


Claims 1 – 7, 9 – 31, and 33 – 60 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 8 and 32 have been written in independent form. It is accordingly believed that the rejections are moot. Applicants also note their disagreement with the reasoning presented in the Office Action that attempts to equate the materials used, and the manner in which they are used, in the devices of Wilding with the materials described in the claimed invention. Wilding’s materials are not identical in chemical structure or component to the claimed invention.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Patrick M. Boucher  
Reg. No. 44,037

Appl. No. 09/998,600  
Amdt. dated March 16, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of November 16, 2004

PATENT

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor  
San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
Tel: 303-571-4000  
Fax: 415-576-0300  
PMB:pmb

60409836 v1